



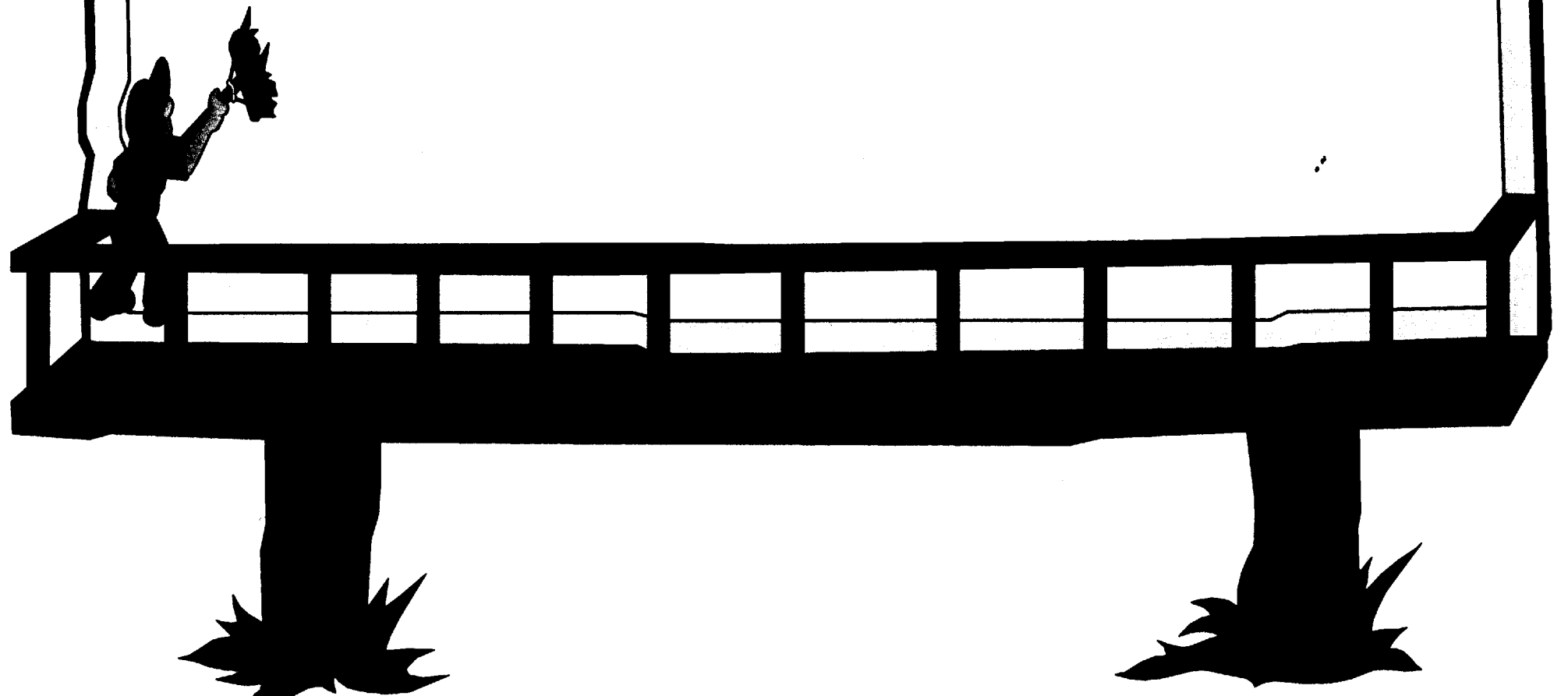
Headquarters Policy Flash

FLASH 2003-05

DATE: January 29, 2003
TO: Procurement Directors
FROM: Office of Procurement and Assistance Policy, ME-61
Office of Procurement and Assistance Management

SUBJECT: **Business Partner Network (BPN)/Central Contractor
Registration (CCR), Proposed Elimination of Standard Form
129, and CONTRACTOR REGISTRATION ALERT**

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to provide information regarding
existing and future changes, which will have a significant impact
on DOE awards.



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Background

BPN/CCR are elements of the Integrated Acquisition Environment (IAE), which is an e-Government initiative stemming from the President's Management Agenda. In order to broaden use and reliance on e-business applications, the FAR Councils are working with the Office of Federal Procurement Policy to eliminate the need to maintain paper-based sources of contractor information. Consequently, the BPN and CCR are merging to achieve an electronic environment with government wide process applicability.

In concert with the BPN/CCR deployment, changes to the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) are scheduled to take place. On November 6, 2002, a proposed rule was published in the Federal Register at 67 FR 67762, eliminating Standard Form 129, Solicitation Mailing List Application. Other anticipated changes to the FAR are FAR Case 2002-018, Central Contractor Registration, and FAR Case 2002-024, On-Line Representations and Certifications, not yet published in the FAR.

FAR Case 2002-018 requires registration in CCR by September 30, 2003 of all contractors, proposed and otherwise, who intend to do business with the Federal Government. Contractors not registered by that date in the CCR/BPN will not receive future or scheduled awards.

Business Partner Network (BPN)/Central Contractor Registration(CCR)

The BPN strategy provides the single source of vendor data, to include contracts, grants, and interagency agreements, for the Federal Government. The BPN will provide web enabled capability for identifying Federal (interagency) and industry (vendor) trading partners. The BPN will be a one stop source for information about trading partners providing access to several key databases across Federal Agencies, such as, Past Performance, Small Business Administration Pro-Net, Equal Employment Opportunity compliance checks, etc.

Currently, the CCR is a searchable database accessible via the Internet, which supports Federal agencies' needs for valid vendor data for contracting and finance processes. The database enables prospective contractors and existing contractors to update or enter their corporate data in one place at <http://www.ccr.gov> As a single validated source of data on contractors doing business with the Government, contracting officers may access CCR to obtain contractor data and industry information.

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As you know, the CCR is already implemented through FAR at various provisions and clauses including FAR 52.232-33, Payment by Electronic Funds Transfer-Central Contractor Registration, which is a requirement for use under FAR Case 2002-018 Central Contractor Registration. However, the term BPN is not currently in the FAR but will be soon be as part of the above mentioned FAR Case and will absorb the CCR as we transition to the new larger BPN concept. Therefore, you may see these terms used interchangeably during the transition. The attached chart visually describes the new network.

How Will CCR Work?

Currently, government wide policy is being developed to amend the FAR to make CCR registration for vendors mandatory if their goal is to do business with the Federal Government. FAR Case 2002-018, Central Contractor Registration, requires that all contractors and prospective contractors [with exceptions] be registered prior to award of a contract, basic agreement, basic ordering agreement, and blanket purchase agreement, including the modification of these instruments.

Although the CCR may be accessed via the Internet, each Federal agency must subscribe to the services provided by the CCR's managing organization (DoD) in order to access proprietary contractor and proposed contractor data. DoD will provide a copy of the CCR database to the subscribing Federal agency. At present, it is anticipated that only one subscription will be obtained for the DOE. The CCR database will be centrally maintained by DOE and those organizations requiring access or integration will obtain it from the centrally maintained version. Initially, the Office of Procurement and Assistance Management will obtain and maintain the agency's database.

Will BPN/CCR Connect to Existing Procurement Databases?

Corporate systems, financial assistance systems, IIPS, PADS, the SRS, etc., are targeted for CCR integration October 1, 2003. Certain activities may cease prior to final systems integration, such as, issuing notices to potential contractors from IIPS could discontinue as early as June 2003.

Will Financial Assistance Recipients be Required to Register in BPN/CCR?

The E-Grants Program Management Office is currently developing the government-wide policy for financial assistance recipients regarding registration in the BPN/CCR. Guidance will provided once the policy is issued.

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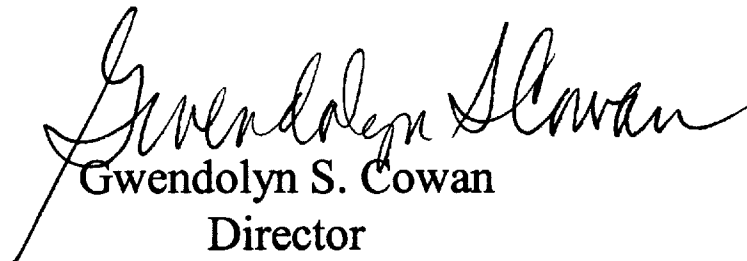
What is the Schedule for BPN/CCR Implementation?

Contractor registration in CCR is expected to become mandatory on September 30, 2003. This means that those prospective contractors or contractors not registered in the CCR by September 30, 2003, will be prohibited from doing business with the Federal government, if an exception does not apply. No contracts will be awarded or orders issued to any firm not in compliance with CCR registration, including the maintenance of registration until final payment is made.

When can Contractors Register in CCR?

Contractor's and prospective contractor's should register in CCR **immediately**. Even though the mandatory registration date is not until September 20, 2003, the burden of ensuring all existing contractors and prospective contractors registration could be overwhelming on contracting personnel if contracting activities do not begin now to ensure that contractors are registered. Consequently, all offerors and potential offerors should be advised to begin registration in the CCR at once.

Questions concerning this Flash should be directed to Denise Wright at (202) 586-6217 or via e-mail at denise.wright@pr.doe.gov or Doug Baptist at (202) 586-0813 or via e-mail at douglas.baptist@pr.doe.gov


Gwendolyn S. Cowan
Director

cc:
PPAG Members
FAAC Members